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ABSTRACT

The object of this statement by the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services is to inform the Commonwealth Government of the need for greatly increased financial support for libraries directly serving the public. It is not the intention to analyze the present position in full detail, but simply to adduce evidence that an examination is warranted into the inadequate financial provision now being made for these library services. In this paper the Council has attempted only to indicate in broad terms the nature and approximate scale of the grave deficiencies in public library services. The present situation is viewed with concern, and it is recommended that the Commonwealth Government give it early and serious examination. (Author/SJ)

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LIBRARIES FOR THE PUBLIC

A STATEMENT OF NEEDS

AUSTRALIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SERVICES

July 1968

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OBJECT

The object of this statement is further to inform the Commonwealth Government of the need for greatly increased financial support for libraries directly serving the public.

It is not the intention to analyse the present position in full detail but simply to adduce evidence that an examination is warranted into the inadequate financial provision now being made for these library services.

The statement is a renewal of a submission, *Libraries for the Public: a Statement of Deficiencies in Public Library Services and a plea for Commonwealth Financial Support,* which was made to the Government in May 1966 by the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services (AACOBS). The resolutions of AACOBS which gave rise to this are set out in Appendix A.

NOTE: The term "Public library" in Australia is commonly used to include:

(a) The relatively large reference and research libraries maintained by the States, under two forms of name, viz. the "Public Library of New South Wales" and the "Public Library of Queensland", but: the "State Library of South Australia", the "State Library of Tasmania", the "State Library of Victoria" and the "State Library of Western Australia". These also include special research collections under separate designations, e.g. The Oxley Memorial Library in the Public Library of Queensland, the Mitchell Library in the Public Library of New South Wales, the La Trobe Library in the State Library of Victoria, and the Battye Library in the State Library of Western Australia.

(b) Public Libraries, with provision for lending services, established by local government authorities in each State and maintained from local rates with State subsidy.

For the purposes of this statement the libraries in (a) will be referred to as State reference libraries, those in (b) as public libraries.

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF LIBRARIES FOR THE PUBLIC

It is again submitted that the services provided both by the State reference libraries and by public libraries are vital:

(a) to provide scientific, technological and economic information necessary for the development of the nation;

(b) as an important supplement to formal education;

(c) for the maintenance of a high level of community awareness;

(d) and, by means of the foregoing, in equipping Australian citizens for intelligent participation in the democratic way of life.

It must be remembered that a very great part of the total economic activity of the country takes place in fairly small firms. While a very large organization may provide itself

with library and information services which are ample for all but its peripheral needs, the small firm is not in a position to do this and must rely upon communal provision.

Moreover, an essential role of libraries for the public is to provide for the needs of citizens whose formal attachment to an educational institution has terminated, at whatever level that took place. Commonwealth initiative and funds are both raising the standard of education and increasing the numbers of former students of a higher standard; to that extent they are causing a greater call upon the library services provided for those former students – the public of Australia.

State Reference Libraries

The State reference libraries range in size from about 100,000 volumes (Tasmania) to more than 900,000 (New South Wales), and in date of foundation from 1826 (New South Wales) to 1896 (Queensland). They contain substantial resources not elsewhere available in Australia, besides large and unique resources of the documentary record of Australasia and the Pacific which are essential for the study of Australian development. They therefore play a major part in research in this country.

In each State they are the principal source of recorded information directly available to all members of the community for as long as 78 hours each week. In particular, they provide indispensable data for:

Governments
Industry
Commerce
Study and research in most fields of knowledge.

Notwithstanding great developments in university, college, and school libraries, the State reference libraries are heavily used in formal education, especially advanced education, but also adult education and higher school and undergraduate studies. They necessarily act as a strategic reserve upon which the libraries of government departments, business and industry, high schools, universities and asult education authorities, must draw.

By extensive provision of photocopying facilities for material in their collections, and by the production and publication of subject bibliographies and of reprints of Australian historical source documents, the State reference libraries disseminate information far beyond their own walls, as a substantial part of the nation's resource in information.

Public Libraries

Australian public libraries, with few exceptions, have been developed in the last 25 years. The need for public library services was summarized in the Report on *Public Library Service* by the Libraries Advisory Committee, New South Wales (Sydney, 1939) as follows:-

> "Without libraries the education of the citizen cannot be carried beyond the school or lecture room, because the majority of those who have been taught to read at great public cost have little or nothing to read after they have left school.
>
> Research is essential to commerce and industry, and to the spread of amenities through the country. Without libraries its results cannot be communicated, and research itself is without an essential tool.

Without libraries the citizen has no check on indoctrination and propaganda."

"Their essential purpose is the supply of literature and information necessary to the progress and prosperity of the community as a whole."

It was pointed out in the statement submitted in 1966 that:

"In Australia, as in other countries, the public library today is not to be conceived as an ameliorative service for the intellectually or economically underprivileged. It is designed to afford to all citizens at all levels and of all ages, to the fullest extent of their needs and desires, access to books and information which foster a full, useful and good life and which tend to the social and economic development of the community, or to the personal development of the individual."

PRESENT PATTERN OF LIBRARY PROVISION

The pattern of library provision varies between the States. Different systems have been developed to suit the special circumstances of size, distribution of population, and form of local government in each.

In New South Wales, the State reference library is vested in a statutory corporation known as the Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales, while the State's interest in public libraries is the concern of a separate statutory corporation known as the Library Board of New South Wales, of which the Principal Librarian is Executive Member. A third statutory corporation, the Archives Authority of New South Wales, has control and management of the State archives.

In each of the other States, a single statutory board both controls the State reference library and manages the State's part in providing public libraries, while the State archives are a function of the State reference library.

In New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, public libraries are established and maintained by local government authorities from local rates with the aid of a State financial subsidy administered respectively by the Library Board of New South Wales, the Library Council of Victoria and the Library Board of Queensland. In the other three States the typical system is that the local authority provides staff, buildings, and incidental expenses from local rates, whereas the bookstock is generally provided and maintained by the State library authority.

The object in all States is nevertheless the same: to provide ready access to extensive library resources for essential information and for education.

In all States it can be shown that, notwithstanding substantial and continually increasing expenditure from both State and local funds, the services provided not only fall short of what has been achieved in other countries but far short of what the community needs if Australia is to have full access to the world's information.

In all States there are still sections of the population which are not served by a public library. It is impossible to give accurate figures because much depends upon what is meant by "served". But an informed estimate, based upon the situation in the six States,

indicates that almost certainly not more, and perhaps rather less, than half the total population of Australia now enjoys effective library services.

This is a situation in which Australia can take no pride. It is one moreover which the States are not capable of rectifying from their own financial resources.

It is the children and the keen, young people growing up who really suffer, and will suffer.

Australia is no longer an isolated island. Forces of history, of politics and of world finance and technology are increasingly breaking down our isolation. There are no tariff barriers to skill. The young men and women of Australia and their children will grow to maturity in a world of increasing mobility and competition where the race is to the swiftest and the entrants are not limited to one State or one country.

In that race, skill and training lead to success. Books and library services are important means to skill and training. AACOBS is well aware, and regrets, that the young people of Australia cannot be given the same advantages as their contemporaries and competitors in other developed countries where library services are better financed.

STATE EXPENDITURE

Library services for the public have been made possible in Australia only by the provision of public funds by the State Governments and by local government authorities. Because of the different patterns of library provision, strictly comparable statistics of expenditure on library services are difficult to obtain. The following table, however, provides a basis of comparison:-

TABLE A

State Expenditure on Libraries etc. from Consolidated Revenue and Special Funds in 1960-61 and 1965-66

	Amount $'000		Per Capita $	
	1960-61	1965-66	1960-61	1965-66
New South Wales	2,296	3,521	0.59	0.84
Victoria	1,660	2,430	0.58	0.76
Queensland	516	776	0.34	0.47
South Australia	684	1,262	0.72	1.17
Western Australia	554	872	0.77	1.05
Tasmania	354	647	1.01	1.75
All States	6,064	9,508	0.58	0.84

(Commonwealth Grants Commission – 29th Report (1962) p.140 and 34th Report (1967) p.174).

(These figures, however, are only indicative. They refer to expenditure not only on libraries of all kinds, but also on other services such as museums, art galleries and other cultural activities. In New South Wales, for example, the State with the largest expenditure, the amount provided from State funds both for the State reference library and for public libraries in 1960-61 was only $1,256,328, or about $0.32 per capita, and in 1965-66 it was $1,841,276, or about $0.44 per capita.)

Per capita expenditure on these services for all States, in the period 1960-61 to 1965-66, thus rose by nearly 45%. Even from these inadequate statistics it is clear that the States have recognised the continuing and growing need for developing their library services.

It must be recognised however that the level of expenditure upon which this significant percentage rate of increase is based was very low. There is no reason to believe that the States will be able to maintain this percentage rate of development in the future though they may well be able to increase somewhat the absolute rate of increase. The inadequacy of present provision in the State reference libraries, for example, may be judged from the following figures of expenditure on books from State funds in 1965-66:

New South Wales	$144,000
Queensland	85,300
South Australia	44,820

Australia was late in developing effective library services for the public. The neglect of past years is still to be made good. All the State reference libraries are in need of enlargement; public libraries are inadequate in nearly all areas and are non-existent in many. Until there has been large capital expenditure to enlarge existing libraries and create new ones, the people of Australia will not enjoy the advantages of library service which people in other developed countries enjoy.

STANDARDS OF BOOKSTOCK PROVISION

State Reference Libraries

The State reference libraries differ greatly in age and size while each has special needs in accordance with the function that it performs. It is impracticable therefore to state a uniform standard of need.

In all States, however, the State reference library is the only substantial source of recorded information generally available to the community. It is called upon to meet the extra demands because of the inadequate provision of public library services. Nevertheless, in no State is it sufficiently endowed to meet even the proper demands made upon it, far less to meet the real needs of the community for resources of information in considerable depth.

In *Queensland*, for example, the average number of volumes added to the State reference library in the years 1965 to 1967 was 17,700 (of which 1,290 were donations) which with an average number of only 3,210 periodical titles received cost an average of $85,770 a year. There is a most pressing need to increase periodical holdings immediately by at least 2,500 titles, but this can only be achieved at present by committing funds that are even more urgently needed to increase acquisitions of new books and to develop greater strength in certain subjects.

In *Tasmania* the State reference library has a pitifully small bookstock of less than 100,000 volumes. The aim of the Tasmanian Library Board, if funds were forthcoming, would be to develop reference service in the State on the following plan:

TABLE B

	Present stock	Stock by 1977
State Reference Library	96,729	200,000
Hellyer Regional Reference Library	3,000	10,000
Launceston Regional Reference Library	3,500	30,000
Devonport Regional Reference Library	-	5,000
Other reference facilities	-	5,000
	103,229	250,000

To achieve this would require the purchase of nearly 15,000 volumes annually at a cost of about $100,000 a year.

In *South Australia* this average number of volumes added to the State reference library in the years 1965-1967 was 7,780 or less than half the number added to the Public Library of Queensland and considerably less than the annual increase in stock of some large public libraries. Yet the average increase in use of the State Library of South Australia from 1959 to 1967 was 6.9% for books and 8.9% for periodicals while in the same period the average increase in the population of the State was 2.5%.

In *New South Wales* the State reference library has a total of about 900,000 volumes, but in the years 1965-66 and 1966-67 the number of volumes added to the collection was only 35,421 and 32,257 respectively, of which 22,806 and 20,702 were monographs as distinct from volumes of serial publications. The role of this Library is conceived as that of the 'national' library of the State, serving as an active and organized collection for use by research workers, scholars and advanced students, and members of the public generally, with resources which are used interstate as well as in New South Wales and with special collections in its Mitchell and Dixson Libraries which are of outstanding national significance. It has special strengths in technology and it provides an extension service of books for information to public libraries and to people not served by public libraries. By comparison with similar situations in other advanced countries it needs now, and should be able to develop within 25 years at most, a collection of not less than 3,000,000 volumes. To achieve this would require annual accessions of not less than 80,000 volumes or about three times the present rate of accessions. The present total expenditure is about $210,000 on books and other library material each year. Additional annual expenditure of about $420,000 at current book prices is therefore necessary without taking into account the need for additional staff and accommodation which may be calculated at a further $80,000 a year.

In *Victoria* the State reference library proper has a bookstock of 840,000 with a lending department of 150,000 which essentially performs the function of a city public library. The size, nature and needs of the State reference library of Victoria are comparable

to those of the Public Library of New South Wales, but the total expenditure on the former is only $620,000 in the present year compared with $1,012,880 on the latter, although that has been shown to be quite inadequate.

In *Summary*, competent and independent investigation before and since the Tauber Survey of Australian library resources made in 1961 has clearly shown that all the State reference libraries have serious deficiencies in their bookstocks. To perform their functions they must not only keep up to date with current publications but must also develop their existing collections both in fields where they are at present weak and particularly where they already have special strengths. In no State does the State reference library contain the resources in information that are needed by the community.

Public Libraries

Standards of bookstock provision in public libraries have been determined by various State library authorities. For example, those adopted by New South Wales and Tasmania are as follows:-

TABLE C

Population of local government area	Minimum Number of Books per capita	
	N.S.W.	Tasmania
0-999	-	4.0
1,000-3,999	-	3.5
4,000-5,999	-	3.0
6,000-9,999	3.0	-
10,000-34,999	2.5	2.5
35,000-99,999	2.0	2.0
100,000-199,999	1.75	-
200,000-	1.5	-

In *Tasmania*, if these standards were achieved in all municipalities, the total bookstock for lending purposes would be 970,640 volumes or an average of 2.58 volumes per capita. In fact, in 1967 the total bookstock available for lending purposes was 571,808 or an average of 1.52 volumes per capita, which was a deficiency of 398,834 volumes. If the rate of population increase of 5.95% between 1961 and 1966, continues through the next decade, the population can be expected to reach 416,700 by 1976. To provide books at an average rate of 2.58 volumes per capita for this population would require a bookstock of 1,075,100 volumes, which would entail the purchase of 50,330 volumes a year at a cost of not less than $180,000 per annum without taking account of the expense of maintaining and replacing bookstocks at present held, of which at least 60% would require replacement by 1976 even if all present stocks were new. The purchase of 34,300 volumes a year for this purpose would require expenditure of not less than $105,000 a year. Thus to increase the minimum standards and to maintain bookstocks available for loan in all public libraries, an annual expenditure of $285,000 would be required without taking account of future rises in book prices, and on the false assumption that no present stocks now need replacement.

In *New South Wales*, if the approved standards of bookstock provision were achieved with the existing public libraries, the total bookstock available in public libraries in the State would be in the order of 7,000,000 volumes. In fact, at 31st December 1966, the

total bookstock was 3,490,349; that is to say, less than one book per head of population and less than half the desirable minimum standard. Moreover, in New South Wales at 30th June 1967 there were 46 local government areas with a population of 586,856 which were not served by a public library. To provide a bookstock even at the rate of two books per capita for the whole State, with its present population, would require 8,500,000 books. The *present* deficiency is therefore 4,500,000 books.

In *Victoria*, the population at present served by public libraries is estimated at 2,625,000 whereas 593,000 are not served by a public library. The total bookstock of public libraries in the State is estimated to be 2,033,000, whereas at a standard provision of two volumes per capita the figure should be 6,440,000. The *present* deficiency is therefore 4,407,000 books.

In *South Australia* and *Western Australia*, where public library services were established later than in some of the other States and where about half the population has no public library services, the State library authorities established as an initial aim the provision of one book per head of population.

In *South Australia* at 30th June 1967 councils supplying library services averaged only 0.37 books per capita while the equivalent of a further 0.25 books per capita was already in the central stock of the Country Lending Service, making a total of only 0.62 books per capita available in public libraries. At least 200,000 more volumes are needed at a cost of at least $600,000 to reach the bare minimum of one volume per capita while a further 560,000 volumes at a cost of $1,680,000 would be needed to provide books for areas not yet receiving public library services. That is to say, a grand total of 760,000 additional volumes is needed immediately to provide the bare minimum of one volume per capita in the State.

In *Western Australia* the Library Board in 1953 planned to provide a service to the whole State by 1975 at a basic level of only one book per capita. This was based on general overseas experience at that time. Experience in Western Australia has however proved that due to the high level of public demand and use of library services this scale of provision is inadequate. The Library Board has therefore adopted as an aim (which it recognises at the moment to be financially unattainable) an increase to 1.25 volumes per head by 1975 and thereafter 1.5 volumes per head. Even this modest scale of provision would require a progressive increase in the rate of book purchase from 29,000 volumes in the current year to 77,000 in 1975.

It cannot however be too strongly stressed that the figures which have already been quoted, striking as they are, are but the smaller part of the total increase of expenditure needed on books and related materials in public libraries. This may be exemplified by quoting figures prepared in Western Australia in 1966 of the cost of book supply alone to public libraries in the period 1966-1978. The cost would rise from $183,000 per annum in 1965-66 to $1,532,000 per annum in 1978. Of this total of $1,532,000, $1,192,000 represents maintenance costs as distinct from the cost of developing new libraries or enlarging the stocks of existing libraries. These figures are based on the following assumptions:

(a) provision of library service to the whole population of the State by 1975;

(b) increasing the stock of libraries from one volume to 1.25 volumes per head by 1975 and then increasing progressively to 1.5 volumes per head;

(c) increasing the intake of new books for maintenance to the standard adopted by the British Government in 1962 as a standard of "efficiency" in the public libraries;

(d) average annual increase of 5% per annum in book prices.

While these figures refer specifically to Western Australia there is no reason to doubt that their general conclusion is applicable in all States. They clearly show that what is needed in Commonwealth aid is not a lump sum payment but a substantial initial sum to accelerate the rate of progress followed by continuing and increasing annual support.

COST INCREASES

Prices of books have increased and are continuing to increase out of proportion to the increases in funds provided for libraries for the public.

Between 1957-1959 and 1966, the price increase for books published in the United States was 50% (*Bowker Annual,* New York, 1967 p.91). In the same period the price increase for periodicals which are essential sources of information especially in science and technology was 51.2% (*Ib.* p.93), while the prices for serials services increased by 59.9%, the increase for serials services in science and technology being 222.9% (*Ib.* p.94).

In the two years from 1965 to 1967 the price of adult non-fiction listed in the *British National Bibliography* rose by 31% (*Library Association Record,* August 1967, p.278).

There is ample evidence in detail and over a long period of increases in prices of books and other library material but any assessment of needs for library service must also take into account rising costs of labour, equipment and accommodation.

BOOK PRODUCTION

An accurate comparison of book production figures cannot be made because of continually changing definitions. Nevertheless, figures quoted for Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America (*Bowker Annual,* 1967, pp.80-81) show that the total production of monographs for these three countries in 1963 was 53,481 compared with 83,737 in 1965, an increase of 56.6%. Thus to maintain the same ratio of purchases in 1965 it would have been necessary to buy 157 books for every 100 bought in 1963.

An analysis of the "List Price Index of Books", 1957-1966 (*Bowker Annual,* p.91) shows that prices increased by 17% from 1963 to 1965 which indicates that purchase at a rate of 100 books bought for $100 in 1963 would be maintained at the same rate in 1965 only by the purchase of 157 books at $184, or an increase of 84%.

The conclusion can only be that there has been a steady deterioration in the reference resources of the State reference libraries and in the resources of books in public libraries, relative to the output of currently published information.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Again because of differing sizes and stages of development it is not practicable on available information to state the precise amount of additional finance needed to provide adequate library service for the public in Australia.

In *New South Wales* as long ago as 1962, the Library Board of New South Wales determined a standard of $1.60 per capita as an essential minimum expenditure on public libraries in the State. Expenditure per capita in 1966 from both State and local government funds was only $1.26 for existing public libraries. On a population basis of 4,250,000 New South Wales therefore needs a minimum total expenditure of $6,800,000 without taking rising costs into account. If half of this were met from local rates the balance required would be $3,400,000 of which $1,130,000 was provided by the State in the current financial year, leaving a deficiency of $2,270,000. To this must be added $500,000 a year for the State reference library.

In *Victoria* a recent calculation has revised the New South Wales standard of $1.60 per capita on the basis of changes in costs since 1962 when that standard was set. This arrives at a figure of almost $2 per capita as necessary minimum expenditure on public libraries. It is noteworthy that in 1967 the Commonwealth Government spent $2.95 per head on the Canberra public library service, an expenditure which can not be regarded as extravagent. In the present year total expenditure on public libraries in Victoria is expected to be $2,918,000. At $2 per capita expenditure would be $6,440,000 leaving a deficiency of $3,517,700 compared with a deficiency of $3,120,000 in New South Wales calculated on the same basis of $2 per capita in the present year. To the deficiency for Victoria must be added a further $620,000 for the State reference library.

In *Queensland* it is estimated that a sum of $2,500,000 a year is necessary to provide public library services for the State. Theoretically half of this amount should be obtainable from local government and State funds leaving a deficiency of $1,250,000.

In *South Australia, Tasmania* and *Western Australia* the more centralized systems make statistical comparisons difficult but when the needs of the State reference libraries are added it may be seen that the minimum immediate need for additional funds in the three largest States is as follows:

TABLE D

	State reference Libraries	Public Libraries	Total
New South Wales	$500,000	$3,120,000	$3,620,000
Victoria	620,000	3,517,000	4,137,700
Queensland	250,000	2,500,000	2,750,000
	$1,370,000	$9,137,700	$10,507,700

This amounts on average to a deficiency of about $1.16 per capita in expenditure on library services for the public for these three States, or a total deficiency in present expenditure of about $13,400,000 for all six States.

The special analysis made for Western Australia, referred to above under Standards of Bookstock Provision for Public Libraries, showed that total expenditure from State funds on library services for the public, including the State reference library, to meet the standard laid down for that State, would need to rise from $524,000 in 1966 to $3,731,000 in 1978; that is, by an average annual rate of expenditure of more than 17%. There is no reason to suppose that this would be greatly different in the other States. The maximum annual rate of increase which the States themselves can be expected to bear, having regard to economic factors, would appear to be between 8% and 9%, or about half the total needed.

SUMMARY

In its submission made in May 1966 the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services pointed out that there are six main elements contributing to the financial implications of the case stated, as follows:-

(a) the need to increase and improve the bookstock of State reference libraries;

(b) the need to increase the total bookstock of public library services to allow for coverage of the whole population of Australia;

(c) the need to improve the bookstock of existing public library services;

(d)) the need to maintain the increased bookstocks envisaged in (a) – (c) above;

(e) the need to provide the extra staff to meet the increased stock intake involved in (a) – (d) above;

(f) the need to counter the effect of continued inflation of book prices.

No precise calculation has been made of the additional amount of money needed to provide adequate library service for the public, but it would appear to be between $13,000,000 and $14,000,000 in the present year with an annual growth rate of about 17%. It is clear that this additional sum cannot be provided by State and local governments alone.

The social and economic value of an informed and literate public has been recognized by all Australian governments, especially in the huge increases in expenditure on education in the last decade. Expansion in education increases demands on libraries. Yet comparable increases have not been made in expenditure on libraries for the public which will both ensure continuity in educational opportunity after formal education has ceased and at the same time provide access to information for the social and economic needs of the community.

In this paper AACOBS has sought to do no more than indicate in broad terms the nature and approximate scale of the grave deficiencies now existing in library services for the public throughout the Commonwealth. These deficiencies are becoming increasingly serious and apparent as the effects of Commonwealth initiative in education are felt. The Council views the present situation with the utmost concern and strongly urges the Commonwealth Government to give it early and serious examination.

APPENDIX A

The following is an extract from the letter of 8th December 1965 from the Chairman of AACOBS to the Minister-in-Charge of Commonwealth Activities in Education and Research.

"At a special meeting called for the purpose in Canberra on 26th November the Australian Advisory Council on Bibliographical Services considered the final report of its National Book Resources Development Committee and asked me to transmit to you, as the appropriate Commonwealth Minister, the following resolutions on the need for increased funds for library services to the public.

(a) That, in the light of the deficiencies revealed in a series of reports ranging from Tauber to Burmester, A.A.C.O.B.S. draw the attention of the Commonwealth Government to the inadequacy of funds which State Governments are able to allocate for the building up to minimum levels of reference, educational and information library services for the public, and indicate to the Government the urgent need for a progressively larger increase in such funds over the period of the next five (5) years.

(b) That the actual amount needed be advised in a detailed case to be submitted by A.A.C.O.B.S. in due course, but that, on the basis of a substantial professional enquiry conducted over the last two (2) years which has reviewed the library resources of the nation, the current conclusion of A.A.C.O.B.S. is that the sum required must be sufficient at least to double those funds immediately, or to provide progressive increases which would achieve a similar total expenditure over the next five years.

(c) That the Minister be advised that A.A.C.O.B.S. is aware that a recommendation has been made which may result in a similar grant to Australian university libraries, but stresses that this approach is not due to nor in any way conditional upon such recommendation, but is an independent appreciation, based on surveys and enquiries conducted over the last five (5) years, of what is really a separate though related problem."

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